July 3, 2012

Welcome New Members!

Please direct inquiries about membership to the SGS website's About Us page.

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News You Can Use

2012 Dues

The 2012 membership dues are now due. If you joined in October – December, 2011, your membership is good through 2012. Checks for membership dues ($25) should be made payable to the Southern Gold Society and mailed to David Crenshaw, P.O. Box 237, Dacula, GA 30019. Thank you!

Writer's Needed

One of the purposes of the SGS is to "enjoy each member's knowledge." This newsletter is one of the ways this numismatic knowledge is dispersed. The frequency of the newsletter is driven by the number of submissions for publication.

The editor of the SGS eNewsletter needs new material and welcomes the opportunity to review your original article for publication. Articles should be relevant to the study of the gold coins and related history of the Dahlonega, Charlotte, and New Orleans branch mints and private minters Templeton Reid and the Bechtlers.

If you do a presentation at a gathering or other venue, consider compiling your notes into an article. Do not worry about the grammar. The editor will do the rest. Electronic manuscripts should be submitted by email to dcnumisma@charter.net.

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Feature

SGS Gathering
By Carl Lester

Thirteen members attended this year's Southern Gold Society Meeting, which was held at the Cornerstone Grill on Friday evening, April 27. Members and guests met after the end of the opening day of the Georgia Numismatic Association's Coin Show, held at the Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center, in

Dalton, Georgia. The SGS furnished appetizers and drinks during the meeting, followed by a "Dutch Treat" supper.

The main program, given by Carl Lester, was the story of the original collection of North Georgia College's Dahlonega gold coins. This set of 59 coins was donated by an Atlanta attorney (Henry Aaron Alexander) in 1952, to the State of Georgia, after being assembled over a period of approximately 18 years. Mr. Alexander is probably best known for representing defendant Leo Frank in the infamous Mary Phagan murder case.

After the State of Georgia received the coins, they were soon transferred to North Georgia College, located in Dahlonega, where they went on display in 1954. The collection of Dahlonega gold was located in the college library for many years (in a supposedly "burglar-proof" coin case), but was unfortunately stolen in March 1963. Although numerous law enforcement authorities investigated the crime, including the Georgia and Federal Bureaus of Investigation, there was never sufficient evidence to lead to an indictment.

With the insurance proceeds, a replacement set was assembled by Stack's and was displayed in public for the first time at North Georgia College in May 1973. This time, the set was located in Price Memorial Hall (the college's administration building), in a Diebold coin case, where both sides of the coins were visible. At the end of each day, the coins were removed to the college's more secure main vault for overnight safekeeping. Since the mid 1990s, the set has been on semi-permanent loan at the Dahlonega Gold Museum, site of the original Lumpkin County Court House.

In keeping with the coin theft topic of the evening, SGS member Phil Smith passed around three southern gold pieces that had been stolen from him in 2004, following that year's FUN Show. These pieces are among the coins that were subsequently recovered, one of which was identified by a fellow SGS member at the 2005 Early Spring ANA Convention in Kansas City.

All in all, it was another enjoyable meeting with members of the Southern Gold Society. Good food, lots of camaraderie, and a wonderful time were enjoyed by all.

Mission Statement

The Southern Gold Society was formed to increase the enjoyment and study of Southern gold coins and related history, through an informal, relaxed mix of education and fellowship. The society is reminiscent of those of a bygone era, in which connoisseurship and a gentlemanly appreciation of Southern gold coins is the order of the day.

Purpose

- To facilitate the enjoyment and study of the gold coins and related history of the Southern branch mints (Dahlonega, Charlotte, and New Orleans) and private Southern minters (Templeton Reid and the Bechtlers).
- To enjoy each member's knowledge and friendship in an informal manner.
- To provide a relaxed, pleasant environment in which to meet during selected coin shows and other convenient events.
- To encourage the appreciation and preservation of a Southern gold coin's original surfaces.
- To consolidate the information, resources, and talent available to enthusiasts of these historic Southern gold coins.

Annual Membership Fees

Regular $25 (January-December).

Membership for new members joining in October, November, or December extends through the next year. Checks for membership fees should be made payable to the Southern Gold Society and mailed to **David Crenshaw, P.O. Box 237, Dacula, GA 30019-0004**.

Board of Directors

David Crenshaw, Board Chair (dcnumisma@charter.net)
Carl Lester, Vice Chair (cnlester@hiwaay.net)
David Patton, Board Member (patpatton@mac.com)
Doug Winter, Board Member (dwn@ont.com)
Jeff Garrett, Board Member (coinman4u@aol.com)

GOLD! at Pigeon Roost: The Story of America's First Gold Mining Scrip

By Fred N. Holabird and Al Adams

America's first gold rush started in North Georgia in 1828, twenty years prior to the California Gold Rush. The Pigeon Roost Mining of Auraria, Georgia was at the heart of the Georgia Gold Rush in the 1830s. Read More

GNA Coin Show

Carl next to 1862 Gatling Gun

Carl's southern gold "pick-up," obtained at the GNA Coin Show

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